

Service Ribbons of the Armed Forces

Since actual decorations and medals are worn only on dress occasions, strips of duplicate ribbon as attached to the original emblem are worn at other times to show that the wearer has received such recognition. These ribbons illustrated here are divided into three groups, and in each the most frequently seen ribbons have been highlighted for quick identification.

Army Ribbons

Medal of Honor

Distinguished Service Cross

Distinguished Service Medal

Silver Star

Soldier's Medal

Good Conduct

Civil War Campaign

Spanish War Service

Philippine Campaign

Cuban Occupation

Puerto Rico Occupation

China Campaign

Mexican Service

Mexican Border

Spanish Campaign

Cuban Congressional

Organization Citation

Navy Ribbons

Medal of Honor

Distinguished Service Medal

Navy Good Conduct

Coast Guard Good Conduct

Marine Corps Expeditionary

Yangtze Service

Marine Corps Reserve

Marine Corps Breve

Silver Star

Marine Corps Good Conduct

Navy Expeditionary

2nd Nicaraguan Campaign

Noval Reserve

Chino Service

Navy Cross

Navy and Marine Corps Medal

Presidential Unit Citation

Campaign Participation

Action in Engagements

Defense of Wake Island

Combat Area

Civil War

Sampson Medal

Philippine Campaign

Cuban Pacification

Mexican Service

Dominican Campaign

Byrd Antarctic Expeditionary

Manila Bay

Spanish Campaign

China Relief Expeditionary

Nicaraguan Campaign

Haitian Campaign

2nd Haitian Campaign

2nd Byrd Antarctic Expeditionary

Combined service ribbons

Distinguished Flying Cross

Medal for Merit

Victory

European-Africa-Middle East Theater

Gold Life Saving

Purple Heart

American Defense Service

Asiatic Pacific Theater

Air Medal

Silver Life Saving Medal

American Theater

Legion of Merit

Army of Occupation of Germany

MERCHANT SEAMEN'S AWARDS

Distinguished Service Medal

Torpedoed Seaman



**A Brief History of Medals**

An Emperor of China, in the First Century, A. D., gave his military commanders medals that appear to have been the first on record. From then until the time of Queen Elizabeth had three medals struck and issued to own reward, for they rarely got their recipients into history books. In 1588, Queen Elizabeth had three medals struck and issued to commemorate Britain's victory in the war with Spain. Again in 1650 medals were awarded to officers and men alike following the Battle of Dunbar and in 1816 the British returned to the precedent with the Waterloo Medal for "every officer, non-commissioned officer and soldier."

George Washington received the first medal from our government to commemorate the evacuation of the British from Boston in 1776. This medal is dramatically shown on the front page of this folder. It was for him to emphasize the democratic note in his order by recording "to cherish a virtuous ambition in his soldiers.... whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings, over the left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk". This was the original Purple Heart. The Purple Heart soon fell into disuse, not to be revived in its present form until 1932, on the 200th anniversary of Washington's birth. In 1847, the Certificate of Merit was conceived and awarded, but no medal was struck until 1905. In 1861 the United States established the Medal of Honor, which for some 40 years was the only American military decoration. With the Spanish American War and ensuing events came new rank-and-file medals for wars and campaigns. Today, wartime America has a well-developed system of medals, decorations, and ribbons. It is the purpose of this folder to show them and to explain their significance.

Copyright, 1943, John Wyeth & Brother, Inc., Philadelphia, Pa.

Decorations and Medals OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



**THE GORGAS MEDAL**, for distinguished service in preventive medicine for our Armed Forces whose recipients are selected by the Association of Military Surgeons of the U. S. It is endowed by John Wyeth & Brother, Inc., and carries honorarium of \$500. The medal was conceived in honor of General William Crawford Gorgas, who applied the discoveries of Major Walter Reed and freed the Isthmus of Panama of yellow fever.

**THE MALTESE CROSS**, a coveted clasp worn with the Victory Medal by members of the Navy Medical Corps and the Marine Corps who served in France with the A. E. F. during World War I.

For more than eighty years John Wyeth and Brother, Incorporated, have been privileged to serve the medical profession as manufacturers of fine pharmaceutical preparations for prescription use.

Their strict codes of quality control manufacturing excellence and ethical promotion have been dictated by a deeply-rooted sense of responsibility to the art of medicine. They yield the secret of continuous and reliable service during eighty-two years.

Prepared especially for the Medical Profession by  
**JOHN WYETH & BROTHER, INC.**  
1600 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA 3, PENNA.  
Manufacturers of Fine Pharmaceuticals Since 1860  
PRINTED IN U. S. A. M-523-F



Combined service decorations

**LEGION OF MERIT**  
For those in the armed service who have distinguished themselves since September 8, 1939.

**DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**  
Awarded for heroism or extraordinary achievements in an aerial flight.

**AIR MEDAL**  
For meritorious achievement in an aerial flight in the national emergency since Sept. 8, 1939.

**PURPLE HEART**  
For those wounded in action against the enemy, necessitating treatment by a medical officer.

**LIFE-SAVING MEDAL-GOLD**  
For endangering their lives in saving or endeavoring to save lives from the perils of the sea.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL**  
Given merchant seamen displaying outstanding conduct in World War II.

**MEDAL FOR MERIT**  
This is awarded to civilians who have rendered distinguished service in the national emergency since September 8, 1939.

Decorations of the Armed Forces

These emblems of recognition are called "decorations" since they are most frequently bestowed in recognition of some signal act of personal heroism and differ from "medals" in that they do not commemorate a particular event. They are divided into three groups for easy identification in the (1) Army, (2) Navy and (3) Combined service decorations, the latter composed of emblems which may be issued to any member of the armed forces.

Army Decorations

**MEDAL OF HONOR**  
Awarded by Congress for gallantry risking life beyond duty during combat. This is the nation's highest award.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS**  
For extraordinary military heroism in operations against an armed enemy.

**SILVER STAR**  
For gallantry in situations not warranting the Medal of Honor or the Distinguished Service Cross.

**OAK LEAF CLUSTER**  
Indicating a second award of the same decoration; is to be worn on the original or service ribbon.

**SOLDIER'S MEDAL**  
For heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. This is mainly a peace-time medal.

**GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL**  
Awarded to enlisted men after one year of honorable service.

Navy Decorations

**MEDAL OF HONOR**  
Awarded by Congress for gallantry risking life beyond duty during combat or non-combat action. This is the nation's highest award.

**BREVET MEDAL (U. S. M. C.)**  
Indicates a Marine's Commission from the President for distinguished conduct against the enemy.

**NAVY CROSS**  
Awarded to any person for distinguishing himself by service or extraordinary heroism in military operation against armed enemy.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL**  
For extraordinary service to the Government of the United States.

**SILVER STAR MEDAL**  
Given for distinguished service in combat duty since December 6, 1941.

**NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL**  
Awarded to anyone who has distinguished himself or herself by heroism not involving combat with enemy.

Good Conduct Medals

**NAVY**  
Presented to enlisted men on completion of a period of enlistment showing good conduct.

**MARINE CORPS**  
Given enlisted men on completion of a period of enlistment showing good conduct.

**COAST GUARD**  
Given enlisted men on completion of a period of enlistment showing good conduct.

**GOLD STAR**  
Indicating a second award of the same decoration; is to be worn on the original or service ribbon.

Campaign Medals of the Armed Forces of the United States of America

Army Campaign Medals



1  
**CIVIL WAR CAMPAIGN**  
For all serving in the Federal Forces from 1861 to 1865.



2  
**INDIAN CAMPAIGN**  
To all those who participated in the Indian Wars 1865 to 1898.



3  
**SPANISH CAMPAIGN**  
To veterans of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Philippine action.



4  
**SPANISH WAR SERVICE**  
For those not eligible for the Spanish Campaign Medal.



5  
**CUBAN OCCUPATION**  
For men of the Army of Occupation before May 20, 1902.



6  
**PUERTO RICO OCCUPATION**  
To Army of Occupation after the Spanish surrender.



7  
**PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN**  
For combat service in the Philippine Islands, 1899 to 1913.



8  
**PHILIPPINE CONGRESSIONAL**  
For special Philippine service following end of Spanish War.



9  
**CHINA CAMPAIGN**  
Men in international expedition from 1900-1901.



10  
**CUBAN PACIFICATION**  
For all serving in the Cuban occupation from 1906 to 1909.



11  
**MEXICAN SERVICE**  
For service on the border and in Mexico from 1911 to 1919.



12  
**MEXICAN BORDER**  
For Army and National Guard in border from 1916 to 1917.



13  
**CIVIL WAR**  
To all in Navy and Marine Corps in the Civil War from 1861 to 1865.



14  
**MANILA BAY**  
Awarded to all in Asiatic Squadron under Commodore Dewey.



15  
**SAMPSON MEDAL WEST INDIES**  
Given to Navy and Marines participating from May 6 to August 14, 1898.



16  
**SPANISH CAMPAIGN**  
To all serving between April 20, 1898, and Dec. 10, 1898.



17  
**PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN**  
Within various given dates on ship or shore in Philippines.



18  
**CHINA RELIEF**  
At Peking during Boxer Rebellion between April 5, 1900, and May 27, 1901.



19  
**CUBAN PACIFICATION**  
To all serving in tasks of reorganization between 1906-1909.



20  
**NICARAGUAN CAMPAIGN (1912)**  
To all sent to aid Nicaragua Government during an uprising.



21  
**MEXICAN SERVICE**  
For various services and engagements between 1911 and 1917.



22  
**HAITIAN CAMPAIGN**  
To all serving in Haiti between July 9 and December 6, 1915.



23  
**SANTO DOMINGO CAMPAIGN**  
To all serving between May 5 and December 4, 1916.



24  
**2nd HAITIAN CAMPAIGN**  
To those serving there from April 1, 1919 to June 15, 1920.



25  
**2nd NICARAGUAN CAMPAIGN**  
To all serving there between Aug. 27, 1926 and Jan. 2, 1933.



26  
**YANGTZE SERVICE**  
Between Sept. 3, 1926 and Oct. 21, 1927, March 1, 1930 and Dec. 31, 1932.



27  
**VICTORY**  
All service during 1917-1918, and in Russia, and Siberia, during 1919-1920.




28  
**ARMY OF OCCUPATION OF GERMANY**  
For occupation service from the Armistice to July 11, 1923.




29  
**AMERICAN DEFENSE SERVICE**  
For 12-month service, any part between Sept. 1, 1939, and Dec. 7, 1941.


Ribbons are available and Medals are planned but not yet designed for members of our Armed Forces engaged in these Theatres of War.



**EUROPE-AFRICA MIDDLE EAST THEATER**  
Greenland to west and part of Russia bounded on east by 60°, including Africa and Iran.



**ASIATIC-PACIFIC THEATER**  
Area between Russian 60° meridian on west, and east across Alaska.



**AMERICAN THEATER**  
The American continent and waters, except U. S., Alaska, Greenland.

Combined service campaign medals

These emblems most often stand for participation in a specific campaign or theatre of endeavor. They are shown here divided into three groups "Navy Medals", "Army Medals" and "Combined service medals". The approximate area of activity commemorated by the individual medal is graphically illustrated.



Navy Campaign Medals



13  
**CIVIL WAR**  
To all in Navy and Marine Corps in the Civil War from 1861 to 1865.



14  
**MANILA BAY**  
Awarded to all in Asiatic Squadron under Commodore Dewey.



15  
**SAMPSON MEDAL WEST INDIES**  
Given to Navy and Marines participating from May 6 to August 14, 1898.



16  
**SPANISH CAMPAIGN**  
To all serving between April 20, 1898, and Dec. 10, 1898.



17  
**PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN**  
Within various given dates on ship or shore in Philippines.



18  
**CHINA RELIEF**  
At Peking during Boxer Rebellion between April 5, 1900, and May 27, 1901.



19  
**CUBAN PACIFICATION**  
To all serving in tasks of reorganization between 1906-1909.



20  
**NICARAGUAN CAMPAIGN (1912)**  
To all sent to aid Nicaragua Government during an uprising.



21  
**MEXICAN SERVICE**  
For various services and engagements between 1911 and 1917.



22  
**HAITIAN CAMPAIGN**  
To all serving in Haiti between July 9 and December 6, 1915.



23  
**SANTO DOMINGO CAMPAIGN**  
To all serving between May 5 and December 4, 1916.



24  
**2nd HAITIAN CAMPAIGN**  
To those serving there from April 1, 1919 to June 15, 1920.



25  
**2nd NICARAGUAN CAMPAIGN**  
To all serving there between Aug. 27, 1926 and Jan. 2, 1933.



26  
**YANGTZE SERVICE**  
Between Sept. 3, 1926 and Oct. 21, 1927, March 1, 1930 and Dec. 31, 1932.



27  
**NAVAL RESERVE**  
Issued to Naval Reserve members for ten years consecutive service.



28  
**MARINE RESERVE**  
Issued to Fleet Marine Corps Reserve, for 10 years consecutive service.



29  
**NAVY EXPEDITIONARY**  
For specific campaigns not covered by other medals from 1874 to 1937.



30  
**MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY**  
For specific campaigns not covered by other medals from 1874 to 1937.